United Nations S/2017/299

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 April 2017
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 7 April 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you of the following:

At dawn on Friday, 7 April 2017, the United States of America committed what can only be described as a blatant act of aggression against an airbase of the Syrian Arab Army in the central region under the pretext that chemical weapons had been used in Khan Shaykhun. That is the pretext that was promoted by the terrorist organizations and their masters in Washington, Tel Aviv, Riyadh, Doha, Ankara, London and Paris, and by their media organizations.

The Syrian Arab Republic has affirmed that the Syrian Arab Army does not possess chemical weapons and has never used such weapons in any of its operations against armed terrorist groups. The Syrian Arab Republic also condemns the use of such weapons by any party anywhere at any time and under any conditions.

It is now well known that it is the armed terrorist groups that have used such weapons and stockpiled them in many parts of Syria. They have done so with the cooperation of or under the cover provided by a number of regimes from the region and beyond, including the regimes of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and certain European States. Those regimes have completely ignored all of the facts and documented information regarding the many times that terrorists have used chemical weapons in various parts of Syria.

The Syrian Arab Republic has cooperated fully and constructively with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and fulfilled all of its commitments pursuant to the Chemical Weapons Convention, as documented in the reports of the Technical Secretariat of OPCW.

The Syrian Arab Republic affirms that the incident that occurred in Khan Shaykhun was premeditated. Its purpose was to justify military strikes by the United States of America against the Syrian Arab Army, which has been combatting terrorism and continues to make every sacrifice in the war that it is boldly and heroically waging against terrorism and the terrorist organizations that have been supported, armed and funded by the regimes of the States to which I referred above.

This despicable and contrived American attack against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic comes in the wake of the successes achieved by the Syrian Arab Army in its war against terrorism and terrorist

organizations. The real goal of the American attack on Syria is to weaken the capacity of the Syrian Arab Army to confront terrorist groups. This would be to the advantage of Israel and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Nusrah Front organizations, which the United States is using to achieve its goals in Syria. This is not the first time that the United States has resorted to attacking our army, which, along with its allies and friends, is the real force for combating terrorism in Syria and the region.

The United States of America, which is supposedly leading a coalition against terrorism, has killed hundreds of Syrian civilians, by the admission of the United States Army itself and other States in that coalition. Attacks by that coalition have also destroyed much of Syria's infrastructure, including bridges, hospitals and schools.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns in the strongest possible terms this act of aggression by the United States of America. This action contravenes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and is inconsistent with the responsibility for maintaining international peace and security that comes with the status of permanent member of the Security Council. Even more fundamentally, such attacks raise the spectre of global chaos, and suggest that regional and international crises will now be addressed by the law of the jungle rather than respect for the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

In keeping with its belief that no effort should be spared in combating terrorism and its respect for the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Security Council to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter, and to convene an emergency session to consider the dangerous implications of this despicable American attack on Syria, to condemn said attack, and to explore ways of ensuring that such attacks, which constitute a threat to security and peace in the region and the world, will not be repeated.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.